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A15

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RELEASED IN PART
B2, B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	CSCE-01	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01
	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SR-01	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01
	USIE-00	USSS-00	DTC-01	/065W			

-----0B2DB2 042050Z /38

O 042049Z FEB 92 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8023
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ARA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
MSGBN QUANTICO VA PRIORITY
USOFFICE MRC MIAMI PRIORITY 1731
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
DEA/HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01151

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 10: ATTEMPTED COUP, AS OF 1630,
2/4/92

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REF: CARACAS 01128 & PREVIOUS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS IS DEBATING NOW THE
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CAP'S DECREE SUSPENDING SOME
CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR 10 DAYS. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE SO
FAR HAS CONTINUED THE TREND OF EARLIER PUBLIC COMMENTARY
TODAY -- OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM
DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. SOME CONGRESSMEN,
INCLUDING E.G. EX-PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA, HAVE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 3 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 17 AUG 2006 200503206

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UNFORTUNATELY TAKEN THE OCCASION TO LINK THE COUP TO THE SOCIAL SUFFERINGS CAUSED BY RECENT GOV ECONOMIC POLICIES AND TO THE FOREIGN DEBT. WHILE THE COUP PLOTTERS WILL PERHAPS ALLEGE SUCH LINKAGE IN THEIR EVENTUAL TRIALS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY VALID CONNECTION [REDACTED]

B1

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH EAC DECISIONS MADE TODAY (SEPTTEL), MOST EMBASSY STAFF WILL LEAVE FOR HOME BEFORE SUNDOWN AND MOST OPERATIONS WILL BE SUSPENDED. HOWEVER, A CRISIS DUTY OFFICER WILL REMAIN THROUGH THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 4-5. THIS OFFICER WILL BE POLOFF JAMES GLENN FROM 1800 TO MIDNIGHT; FROM MIDNIGHT TO 0700 ON FEBRUARY 5, POLOFF VICTOR VOCKERODT. IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR, SENIOR OFFICERS REACHABLE IN THEIR HOMES WILL INCLUDE:

-- DCM ROBERT FELDER (H) [REDACTED]
-- POLCOUNS WILLIAM MILLAN (H) [REDACTED]
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-- DATT COL. MICHAEL KENNA, (H) [REDACTED]

B2

4. CONSULATE MARACAIBO REPORTS THAT THE CITY IS BACK TO NORMAL AND THE AIRPORT IS OPEN. THE CONSULATE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF CALLS FROM U.S. BUSINESSES CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THEIR PERSONNEL (E.G. EXXON). MARACAIBO ALSO REPORTS THAT IN THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING, THE BATTLE FOR CUARTEL LIBERTADOR, ONLY ONE INJURY WAS REPORTED.

5. CASUALTIES: MOST OF THE CASUALTIES REPORTED (TOTALS UNKNOWN AS OF NOW) REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE DURING FIGHTING NEAR MIRAFLORES AND LA CASONA IN CARACAS. THE SHOOTING AT LA CARLOTA AIRFIELD RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF TWO REBEL SOLDIERS.

6. AT 1548, SOME SNIPER FIRE FROM THE 23 DE ENERO SLUM, DIRECTED AGAINST LOYALIST SOLDIERS ON THE TERRACE OF THE MIRAFLORES PALACE, WAS SHOWN LIVE ON TELEVISION. ACCORDING TO LATER TV NEWS, THIS SHOOTING APPARENTLY MOTIVATED SOME CONGRESSMEN TO LEAVE THE CONGRESS BUILDING A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. WITNESSES EARLIER ON HAVE REPORTED THAT SNIPERS AND ENCAPUCHADOS (HOODED PERSONS) IN 23 DE ENERO WERE SUPPORTING THE REBEL SOLDIERS BY FIRING ON SOLDIERS LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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7. AT 4.00 P.M. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, JONATHAN COLE, SAID ON TELEVISION THAT "EVERYTHING IS NORMAL" AND HE URGED BUSINESSES TO "OPEN AND OPERATE NORMALLY."

8. EMBASSY CONTACTED ALL SCHOOLS WITH AMERICAN STUDENTS THIS AFTERNOON. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN VALENCIA HAS
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ALREADY DECIDED TO REMAIN CLOSED TOMORROW, BECAUSE (AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON TODAY) THE SITUATION WAS BAD LOCALLY, WITH LOOTING AND STUDENTS CARRYING WEAPONS. CIC AND CAMPO ALEGRE SCHOOL IN CARACAS WILL BE OPEN TOMORROW (ASSUMING NO GREAT PROBLEMS DURING THE NIGHT), BUT OPENING LATE SO THAT BUSES DO NOT HAVE TO DRIVE BEFORE DAWN.

9. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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